

Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 /021 W

----- 103430

R 311210Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2704

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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FOR WENDELL COOTE, AF/E

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PROJECT HOPE

REF: STATE 113305

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO DR. WALSH FROM
HOPE/ETHIOPIAN STAFF:

QUOTE

1. DR. MILLARD DEPARTED ASMARA MAY 29. WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON
JUNE 11.

2. REGARDING PRESENT SECURITY PLANS ON TRACT E, WILL
HAVE TEN UNARMED MINISTRY WATCHMEN PROVIDING 24-HOUR COVERAGE,
4 DURING THE DAY AND 6 AT NIGHT. ALSO ARE PROCEEDING WITH
PLANS TO HAVE POLICE CONTINGENT ASSIGNED
TO SECURITY BUILDING NEAR FRONT GATE. THESE MEN WILL BE ARMED
BUT WILL NOT PATROL TRACT E. WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A CALL BASIS
ONLY. FEEL IT ONLY REALISTIC ADVISE YOU THAT ABOVE GROUPS WOULD
SERVE AS DETERRENT ONLY AND ANY CONCERTED QUOTE ATTACK
UNQUOTE COULD/ WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE REPELLED BY ABOVE UNITS.

3. ACCORDING VAST MAJORITY ETHIOPIAN AND AMERICAN
FEELINGS, THERE IS NO THREAT TO ASMARA RESIDENTS AT THIS TIME.
RECENT INCIDENT DEEPLY REGRETTEED BY EVERYONE INCLUDING ELF
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WHO APOLOGIZED FOR ACTIONS OF SMALL, YOUNG, UNDISCIPLINED

ELEMENT. THIS INCIDENT DOES NOT FIT PATTERN OF PAST ELF
ACTIVITY AND THEY INDICATE IT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS
QUOTE SHIFT IN POLICY TOWARD FOREIGNERS UNQUOTE. EVEN
DR. MESFIN, IEG OFFICIAL, FEELS ABOVE TO BE ACCURATE
REFLECTION OF PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

4. NO ONE, OF COURSE, CAN ACCURATELY PREDICT WHAT
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT OCCUR BUT GENERAL CONSENSUS
IS THAT NO DANGER EXISTS FOR HOPE PERSONNEL IN ASMARA OR
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ASMARA.

5. AT THIS TIME FEEL THAT DECAMERE HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM
SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL WE HAVE BETTER INFORMATION/FEELING
ON DRIFT OF THINGS. HAVE NO REASON FEEL SUCH MOVE ESSENTIAL
BUT SUGGEST AS REASONABLE PRECAUTIONARY MOVE ON OUR PART.
HAVE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS ALL HOPE STAFF NOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE
ASMARA. CONGEN HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS, IN FACT, TO ALL
AMERICANS IN ERITREA NOT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE ASMARA,
OR OTHER CITIES.

6. MAJOR PROBLEM NOW AND IN FUTURE RELATES TO
COMMUNICATIONS IN THAT AIRLINE/TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES
ARE OCCASIONALLY ON STRIKE THUS LEAVING ONLY CONSULATE AND/OR
NAVY CABLE FACILITIES WHICH BOTH HAVE AUTHORIZED FOR OUR USE
IN TIME OF NEED.
END QUOTE.

2. WHILE PRESENT CONSULATE E&E PLAN IS BECOMING OBSOLETE,
DR. WALSH SHOULD BE BRIEFED IN ORDER TO COORDINATE HOPE
PLAN WITH OURS.
PERRY

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